

Idaho Office of Science & Technology

July 2007

In this issue:

- Magazine Names Boise to List of High-Tech Hot Spots
- TechBoise Poster Will Depict History of High-Tech Industry
- NomadISP Expands RV Hotspots
- Second ZiLOG Plant in Nampa Sold to Investment Firm
- TechLaunch Event Trains Entrepreneurs to Seek Funding
- Pharmaceutical Plant to Open in Post Falls
- Genstar Capital Acquires ConvergeOne
- BSU Receives New Technology for Construction Management
- AMIS Receives Contract With Airbus
- Idaho Produces 'Heart Healthy' Barley That Mimics Rice
- AMIS Adds Senior VP of Operations
- Khamu Solutions Releases Sapphire 4.0
- WGI to Work on FutureGen Initiative
- Regus Group to Open Fully Furnished Offices in Boise
- DocuTech, PCLender Form Strategic Alliance
- Balihoo Launches Beta Program for Advertising Media
- ISU Receives \$360,515 for Military Technology Research
- Blaze Energy Ready to Commence Fayetteville Shale Wells
- Kelly Named President of Boise Office Equipment
- ITEX Relocates Server Facilities to Boise
- MotivePower to Build MPXpress Commuter Locomotives
- Ideas Innovations Idaho License Plates For Sale

Magazine names Boise to List of High-Tech Hot Spots

(Statewide) Fast Company Magazine recently named Boise a high-tech hot spot on its list of Fast Cities. The magazine focuses on entrepreneurs and technology.

Three criteria helped determine high-tech hot spots: opportunity or a culture that nurtures creativity by way of patents or job growth in the industry; innovation that is encouraged by government support; and local energy including obscure measuring tools like the number of ethnic restaurants or the number of live-music listeners versus cable subscribers.

"Potatoes? Yeah, Boise has those. But the real action is in online publishing and broadcasting, where employment is up 650 percent since 2000. Wireless telecom is plenty hot too," Fast Company said of Boise.

Other cities on the list included Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

2007 Events Calendar

July

Second Annual Idaho Innovation Awards Nominations Period

Statewide

Annual innovations awards program begins taking online nominations. Finalists and winners to be named at a special awards event in the fall. To learn more, go to www.stoel.com/innovation.

July 11-12 TechLaunch Boise

TechBoise Poster Will Depict History of High-Tech Industry

(Boise MSA) The history of Boise's high-technology industry will be visually chronicled on a TechBoise poster. To gather data for the poster, the Idaho Office of Science and Technology is collaborating with Heike Mayer, assistant professor in urban planning at Virginia Tech, on an online survey of high-technology firms.

The survey will capture data about the genealogy of hightechnology firms in the Boise region. Companies interested in being included in the TechBoise map should fill out the online survey found at the following link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=k6HCh4yBEgFHpp UVavYQhQ_3d_3d

The research team is specifically interested in capturing startups that can trace their roots to local firms such as Micron Technologies, Hewlett-Packard, Extended Systems, and others. Firms that should respond to the survey are:

- High-technology businesses (high-tech manufacturing, R&D, software, e-commerce, etc.)
- Service providers (venture capital, public relations, consulting, human resources, etc.)
- Emerging technology firms (biotech, nanotechnology, etc.)
- Startups and spinoffs (also outside of high-technology) from Micron Technology, Hewlett-Packard, etc.

The goal of the project is to trace the familial relationships among the Boise area companies. The relationships between a parent company (the incubator of a startup) and a child company (the startup itself) will be determined by the immediate previous employer(s) of the founder(s). The genealogy of the participating companies will then be visually presented on a poster. Additional questions are included to assess Boise's competitive position as an emerging high-tech region.

Mayer worked on a similar project for Portland. For questions and ideas, contact:

Heike Mayer, Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech; Phone: (703) 706 8122; E-mail: heikem@vt.edu

Julie Howard, Idaho Office of Science and Technology;

Phone: (208) 334-2650 ext. 2147; E-mail: Julie.howard@commerce.idaho.gov

NomadISP Expands RV Hotspots

(Boise) NomadISP, which provides Wi-Fi networks to the outdoor hospitality industry, added 25 more parks to its customer base this spring.

The Boise firm had a record-breaking May, adding hotspots in parks in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York,

Annual TechLaunch competition educates start-up companies on how to seek seed and venture capital. Information and registration is at www.idahotechconnect.com.

July 12 Kickstand

Boise

Monthly innovation group meets for networking, food and drink at the Lush Lounge, 760 Main St. 5:30 p.m. RSVP at www.kickstand.org.

July 12 eWomenNetwork

Boise

Accelerated Networking luncheon at the AmeriTel Inn Boise Spectrum will feature motivational speaker Johnna Schuck Johnson. Lunch is 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and cost for nonmembers is \$45. Register by calling (208) 629-4932.

July 12 CEO Speaker Series Luncheon Boise

The Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce hosts speaker Sharon Allen, Chairman of Deloitte & Touche USA LLP. Luncheon runs from noon to 1:30 p.m. and costs \$40 for nonmembers. For information, go to www.boisechamber.org.

August 23-24 Big Sky Venture Capital Conference Big Sky, Montana

The Venture Conference for the Northern Rockies will be held on August 23-24. Registration is open for venture capitalists, accredited angel investors and entrepreneurs chosen to present at the conference.

The selection committee for The Big Sky Venture Capital Conference is now seeking presenting companies.

Web applications from prospective presenting companies are being received at www.angelsoft.net/asp/ntPortal.action?currentGr oupId=221047. Application deadline is July 23, 2007. Contact Gary Bloomer with questions at gbloomer@techranch.org or (406) 556-0272. Visit www.bigskyventurecapital.com for more information.

Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. NomadISP is the largest and fastest growing wireless Internet provider specializing in the RV industry. The firm has brought Wi-Fi to hundreds of RV parks throughout the country, as well as Canada and Mexico.

More information is at www.nomadisp.com.

Second ZiLOG Plant in Nampa Sold to Investment Firm

(Nampa) The former ZiLOG Inc. semiconductor fabrication building in Nampa has been sold to Sundance Investments LP. The 108,322 square-foot building at 1551 11th Ave. North has been decommissioned as a wafer fabrication facility and has been modified for generic industrial use. ZiLOG consolidated its production into other operations overseas nearly three years ago.

A separate former ZiLOG plant was sold to Micron Technology a year ago.

Sundance Investments, LP is the investment arm of The Sundance Company, a commercial real estate management firm based in Boise. The company is still exploring its options for the Nampa property, which may include the construction of additional buildings.

"We purchased this property with the intention of multitenant use, and we already have four interested parties," said Travis Anderson, vice president of The Sundance Company.

TechLaunch Event Trains Entrepreneurs to Seek Funding

(Boise) Seven Idaho companies will participate in TechLaunch 4.0 in Boise July 11-12. Companies advanced to the state level from regional competitions held earlier this summer. TechLaunch, in its fourth year, gives Idaho entrepreneurs the opportunity to practice their pitch in front of a judging panel, comprised of five representatives from various sectors of the capital community. Judges include a venture capitalist, venture leasing agent, an Angel investor, a commercial banker and an SBA 504 lender.

This year's competition features companies from various industries - online social communities to software and consulting to hardware. The companies will compete for a \$10,000 prize, provided by the Idaho National Lab. In addition, a People's Choice award will be given to a company selected by the audience.

This year's competing companies are Ivus Industries, Inc. (Moscow), Meth Lab Cleanup LLC (Post Falls), OKOS Solutions (Idaho Falls), U2ML (Boise), Pronetos (Boise), GoSleepGo (Moscow), and Check a Biz (Nampa).

The two-day event, features a full day of workshops on financing options, the due diligence process and the art of the pitch. The second day will consist of the company presentations and judges' feedback.

TechLaunch, an annual event, is organized by Idaho TechConnect, the Idaho National Laboratory, the Idaho

For more calendar information, visit Conferences and Events at cl.idaho.gov Economic Development Association, the Idaho Office of Science and Technology and private and public organizations throughout the state.

For more information and to register, please visit www.idahotechconnect.com.

Pharmaceutical Plant to Open in Post Falls

(Post Falls) Biopol Laboratory, part of the ALK-Abello Group, is building a new manufacturing and research and development facility in Post Falls.

The new facility will occupy 12.5 acres of land in Riverbend Commerce Park in Post Falls, the company said in a statement. The site will be the future home and main office for Biopol Laboratory - ALK-Abelló's largest production site of raw material for its allergy immunotherapy products. The first phase of the construction will be approximately 68,000 square feet. with an initial investment of around \$30 million. The facility should provide approximately 50 jobs when completed in 2009.

Biopol Laboratory currently operates out of five facilities in and around Spokane, Wash. and controls a 600-acre farm in Plummer, Idaho, just south of Kootenai County, where it grows a variety of grasses and other plants to produce pollens used as raw materials for allergy immunotherapy products.

Genstar Capital Acquires ConvergeOne

(San Francisco, Boise) Genstar Capital, LLC, a private equity firm, has partnered with management to acquire ConvergeOne, a provider of business communications solutions.

ConvergeOne, headquartered in Pennsylvania, has an operating company called S-1 IT Solutions in Boise that will continue to be headed by its CEO and founder Steven Sells. ConvergeOne, through its family of national value added solutions providers, offers a "one-stop" destination for its broad spectrum of customer relationships.

Custom services include converged networks and unified communication solutions, call centers, system design, implementation, integration, maintenance, data storage and archiving and other professional services primarily for midsized and enterprise businesses.

More information is at www.gencap.com and www.convergeone.com.

BSU Receives New Technology for Construction Management

(Boise) Construction management students at Boise State University will have a powerful new tool for studying construction sites, thanks to a donation from iBEAM Systems and Layton Construction.

The Boise-based firms donated the "iBeam Handheld," a portable wireless camera that transmits live images through the Internet. The camera will allow professors and students

in the Department of Construction Management to share live, interactive walk-throughs of job sites with their classmates, instructors or anyone involved in the construction industry. "Up till now, we've had to rely on field trips to provide a visual experience of the materials and methods that we teach in the classroom," said Rebecca Mirsky, chair of the Department of Construction Management in Boise State's College of Engineering.

The new equipment will be used by students and instructors to study the under-construction parking structure on University Drive just south of the Student Union Building, and the Bronco Stadium expansion. The close-up views of the university's on-campus construction could be shared with students at Boise State, as well as with students at other universities anywhere in the world.

Unlike an ordinary Web cam, iBEAM's handheld allows an individual on the job site to walk through a project and point out specific items or focus in on areas of concern. Meanwhile, the contractor, architect, subcontractor, supplier or client can watch the live images on a computer screen.

AMIS Receives Contract With Airbus

(Pocatello) AMI Semiconductor, which designs and manufactures mixed-signal and digital products, has been chosen by Airbus to supply flight-critical ASICs for future applications dedicated to civil and military aircraft. Under the terms of the contract with Airbus, AMIS will initially provide FPGA-to-ASIC conversion solutions for two components that were previously used for establishing discrete signal acquisition (USB format) in various flight systems. In addition to AMI Semiconductor's position as the leading FPGA-to-ASIC provider, Airbus selected AMIS because of the company's track record in the avionics sector and a commitment to long lifetime supply and support for the two ASIC devices. AMI Semiconductor's quality systems and failure analysis capabilities also played a major role in the final decision.

The order to supply ASICs for flight critical applications is a great success for AMI Semiconductor's Military and Aerospace Business Unit.

Airbus is one of the world's leading aircraft manufacturers and consistently captures half or more of all orders for airliners with more than 100 seats.

AMI Semiconductor serves customers in the automotive, medical, industrial, mil/aero and communication markets. More information is at amis.com.

Idaho Produces 'Heart Healthy' Barley That Mimics Rice

(Boise) Just a half year ago, the Idaho Barley Commission shipped Japanese buyers a specialty barley that looks, cooks, tastes and feels almost like rice, but its high levels of a soluble fiber called beta glucan make it healthier for Japanese-and American-hearts.

"The Japanese are very deliberative. It can take a year to come into their market," says administrator Kelly Olson. But within three months, the Japanese were buying 'Salute,' a WestBred high beta-glucan barley, from a southern Idaho firm, and within six months, growers in northern Idaho were contracting with Genesee Union to produce a Japan-bound crop for 2007.

It's not quite so new to University of Idaho crop management specialist Brad Brown, who has included barleys with elevated levels of beta glucan in his variety and fertilizer trials for the past few years. Brown says they've yielded 80 to 90 percent as much as typical feed barleys in his southwestern Idaho and eastern Oregon tests. In Moscow, counterpart Stephen Guy is examining the extent to which different seed treatments and seeding rates can improve yields, while colleague Juliet Windes in southeastern Idaho is investigating whether plant physiology or plant diseases may be undermining seedling emergence under challenging conditions.

Even without focused breeding for high beta glucan content, barley contains more of the soluble fiber than other grains. In part, that's because beta glucan is found throughout the kernel: remove the bran and you've still got a heart-healthy product. But demand for malt and animal feed-not human food-have historically driven barley's markets, and Olson says less than 3 percent of the U.S. crop goes to human consumption. Since May 2006, however, the Food and Drug Administration has allowed foods containing at least 0.75 grams of soluble fiber per serving to bear the health claim that they "may reduce the risk of heart disease" and Olson expects that labeling to start making a difference. Idaho growers, who produce the nation's second-largest barley crop, are already enjoying healthy barley prices. Demand for biofuel corn boosted barley prices beyond \$7 a hundredweight earlier this season-a whopping \$3 more than a year ago - and growers have responded by increasing plantings to an estimated 550,000 acres. Previously, Idaho acreage had slipped steadily from 1,370,000 in 1984 to 530,000 last year, says Paul Patterson, University of Idaho Extension agricultural economist.

Much of what's fueling the interest in high beta-glucan barleys among Idaho growers is Treasure Valley Renewable Resources' fractionation plant, soon to be under construction in Ontario, Ore. Project manager John Hamilton says the plant will feed both the demand for healthy foods and the demand for domestic fuels by separating barley's components. The crop's beta glucan will go to nutraceutical markets, its protein will be sold for fish feed and the rest will be converted to ethanol.

AMIS Adds Senior VP of Operations

(Pocatello) AMI Semiconductor, Inc., subsidiary of AMIS Holdings, Inc., has named David Coller as senior vice president of operations.

Coller will be responsible for worldwide operations, including manufacturing, assembly, test, and supply-chain management.

Prior to joining AMIS, Coller was vice president of operations

for Anadigics. Among his achievements while at Anadigics, he ramped the world's first 6-inch analog GaAs wafer fabrication facility, drove significant improvements in manufacturing efficiencies, costs and cycle times, and was instrumental in obtaining governmental approvals and negotiating the design and construction of their recently announced wafer fab in China. In addition, Coller set up and ran cooperative ventures for assembly in Thailand and test in Taiwan. Coller's previous experience includes his position as advanced packaging and technology manager for GEC Plessey Semiconductors and positions with Isocom Limited, Hy-Comp and Texas Instruments.

Coller earned his MBA from Henley Management College in Henley, UK. He has earned a diploma in managerial studies with a certificate in management from Swindon College and is also a graduate of mechanical/production engineering from Plymouth Polytechnic in Plymouth, UK.

Khamu Solutions Releases Sapphire 4.0

(Boise) Khamu Solutions, LLC has released its latest software solution that enables servers to take orders on a handheld device, with a direct link to the kitchen and backend systems.

Sapphire is a leading Point of Sale solution for restaurants, hospitals, baseball stadiums and other sporting venues. Sapphire 4.0 adds many new features, including: a native link to QuickBooks for timeclock and sales data, native credit card and gift card solutions, employee messaging, and many other features.

Sapphire has been installed nationwide and includes advanced standard features such as remote access over the Internet, inventory management, and loyalty accounts, as well as standard POS features.

More information is at www.khamu.com.

WGI to Work on FutureGen Initiative

(Boise) Washington Group International has been selected by the FutureGen Industrial Alliance to provide architectural, design, and engineering support services for the FutureGen initiative, a public-private partnership to develop and build a first-of-its-kind, coal-fueled, near-zero emissions electric power plant.

The prototype project, estimated to cost in excess of \$1 billion, will also be the world's first integrated carbon sequestration and hydrogen gas production research power plant. The approximate 275-megawatt Integrated (coal) Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) power plant will use cutting-edge technologies to generate electricity while capturing and permanently storing carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, deep underground. The project will convert a variety of coal types to hydrogen gas for power generation and other potential industrial uses.

The project includes development of a large-scale engineering laboratory and research platform for evaluating and testing new technologies for the conversion of coal to

fuel gases, for the capture of carbon dioxide, and for the clean production of power.

As the engineering and construction management provider, Washington Group International will assist the Alliance in the evaluation and selection of technologies for coal gasification and for gas and power generation, as well as integrate the selected technologies and packages for the processes across the facility.

The initial technology selection, design, and engineering work is scheduled for completion in March 2008.

The FutureGen Industrial Alliance is a non-profit industrial consortium representing the coal and power industries that is partnering with the U.S. Department of Energy to design and build the prototype facility.

For more information, go to www.wgint.com.

Regus Group to Open Fully Furnished Offices in Boise

(Boise) The Regus Group, the world's largest provider of fully furnished and equipped offices with 950 locations in 70 countries, today announced that it has signed a lease agreement to open a new 16,500 square foot center in the Banner Bank Building in Boise, Idaho. The landlord for the project is T&B Land Holding, LLC and the term of the lease is 120 months.

The new Regus facility will be located on the top floor of award-winning Banner Bank building, a Class A facility located in downtown Boise. The center will feature 68 offices, 117 workstations, one boardroom and one videoconferencing studio. The 11-story Banner Bank Building is only the 19th facility worldwide to earn the Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. At the time of the certification it was the first privately investor-owned facility in the U.S. to achieve this status.

The building features a white reflective roof, water reclamation system, computer-controlled lighting and other conservation-oriented features. Compared to an average commercial office building of the same size, the Banner Bank Building consumes 50 percent less energy; uses 65 percent less domestic potable water; and uses up to 80 percent less potable for sewage conveyance.

Regus offers its clients a number of benefits including: the freedom to grow, downsize, or expand their business to another geographic location with minimal disruption; simple, one-page contracts; one, fixed monthly price, that includes everything they need to run their business; state-of-the-art IT; and a global network of more than 950 locations that allow members unlimited access to Regus business lounges worldwide.

More information is at www.regus.com.

DocuTech, PCLender Form Strategic Alliance

(Idaho Falls) DocuTech Corp., a leading provider of compliant mortgage documents and services, has launched a strategic alliance with Honolulu-based PCLender.com, a Web based software and service solution. The alliance integrates DocuTech's compliant documents with the PCLender.com enterprise mortgage lending system.

PCLender's fully hosted on-demand enterprise lending system, InHouse Mortgage, is scaleable both for small and mid-sized originators and mortgage lenders, delivering real-time electronic loan folder sharing to all parties working on a loan. The integration of DocuTech's ConformX with InHouse Mortgage creates a Web-based solution that transforms an Internet connection into a 24-hour loan origination or closing office. This alliance ensures that users will enjoy secure loan processing with documents that are compliant with all state and federal regulations while enabling an origination and closing process that is quick and accurate for both brokers and lenders. DocuTech offers the distinct advantage of enabling PCLender.com customers to create custom document sets for 'generic' loan products, enhancing their secondary marketing delivery options.

Paperless processing and seamless integration allow lenders and brokers using InHouse Mortgage with DocuTech's ConformX to benefit from the increased speed with which loans can be originated and processed. This new alliance also makes DocuTech's compliant documents available to brokers, giving them affordable access to the same systems used by larger banks.

More information is at www.docutechcorp.com.

Balihoo Launches Beta Program for Advertising Media

(Boise) Balihoo, developer of the advertising industry's first and only vertical search engine for advertising media, announced today that it has launched a broad Beta Program involving a group of companies representing more than \$25 billion in U.S. media spending annually. Participants in the program include media buying firms, advertising agencies and major national advertisers.

The Balihoo search engine enables advertisers and agencies to search for media properties that are most relevant to their advertising campaigns, gather and analyze information about those properties, and interact with media owners to build and execute media plans. Balihoo works across geographies and on any media type including TV, radio, print, interactive and out-of-home.

Balihoo expects the Beta Program to run approximately four weeks, after which the company will review feedback and make any needed modifications to the platform before its highly-anticipated market launch in fall 2007. The Beta Program is starting with a core group of participants, however additional participants will be invited into the program as they sign-up on the Balihoo website. Interested individuals and companies are encouraged to go to the Balihoo Web site to sign up for the Beta Program. Information is at www.balihoo.com.

ISU Receives \$360,515 for Military Technology Research

(Pocatello) Idaho State University received \$360,515 in award

money on July 1st from the Department of Defense EPSCoR program to sponsor research. Over three years, ISU will research soil and landscape characteristics to develop technology that will predict and evaluate soil transport. Eolian soil transport and helicopter brownout profoundly impact military operations in arid and semiarid regions by impeding visibility, trafficability, and other operations as well as causing health concerns (e.g. transported bacteria in the soil).

This research will evaluate remote sensing techniques coupled with ground measurements for predicting when and where soil transport will occur in arid landscapes. New airborne image fusion techniques will be developed for acquiring the high-resolution data required to parameterize as well as validate wind erosion at scales that are relevant to battlefield operations.

This project will provide fundamental research needed for successful Army operations in arid and semiarid areas while strengthening Idaho's research infrastructure through research experience and collaboration between graduate students, faculty, and government researchers.

Blaze Energy Ready to Commence Fayetteville Shale Wells

(Boise) Blaze Energy has made payment of \$1.2 million and has completed its last financing step required for drilling to commence in its first two Fayetteville Shale Wells. Drilling remains scheduled to begin on or about Aug. 1. Blaze Energy is a natural gas exploration and production company actively engaged in the Fayetteville Shale gas project in Arkansas. Blaze Energy is also a majority-owned subsidiary of Environmental Energy Services, Inc, an independent oil and gas exploration and production company.

Kelly Named President of Boise Office Equipment

(Boise) Brent Kelly, vice president, general manager of Boise Office Equipment, has been promoted to president of this Xerox company serving the document technology needs of midsize business customers in Idaho. He replaces founder Mike Shannahan, who continues as BOE chairman. Kelly has 30 years of management experience in the office products industry. Previously Kelly served as sales manager, branch manager, regional manager and marketplace manager encompassing key markets in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah and Nevada. His experience includes management positions with Datafax, San Sierra, Alco Standard, Yost Office Systems and IKON.

ITEX Relocates Server Facilities to Boise

(Bellevue, Wash.) ITEX Corporation, a leading marketplace for cashless business transactions in North America, announced the successful transfer of ITEX information server operations to a new co-location facility in Boise, Idaho. CEO Steven White says this switch affords ITEX better

security, storage capacity and protection from natural disasters.

Supported by new Dell PowerEdge Servers and Cisco routers and firewalls, the upgraded systems in Boise provide service up to eight times faster than our previous high-speed systems. The new servers and software provide more security for the ITEX community, add data storage capacity for increased product and service offerings, and are expected to be more reliable than the former systems.

ITEX is a thriving community of 22,000 member businesses buying and selling more than \$250 million a year in ITEX dollar transactions.

MotivePower to Build MPXpress Commuter Locomotives

(Boise) MotivePower, a Boise-based subsidiary of Wabtec Corp., has received orders worth \$33 million for 12 MPXpress commuter locomotives from transit agencies in California, Minnesota and New Mexico.

The locomotives will be delivered in 2008-2009.

In the most recent orders, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority and the Metropolitan Council of Minnesota exercised options to purchase an additional four units each, as part of a multi-agency procurement. The Mid-Region Council of Governments in New Mexico, which already has five units in service, exercised its option for another four locomotives.

The MPXpress(R) locomotives offer significant technological improvements, including higher-horsepower engines to move more passengers within the same schedule, improved fuel efficiency, advanced emissions reduction technology and microprocessor controls. They will also meet the latest crashworthiness and safety standards recommended by the American Public Transportation Association. The locomotives will contain a number of components produced by other Wabtec subsidiaries, including the microprocessor control system, braking equipment, brake shoes and radiators.

Ideas Innovations Idaho License Plates For Sale

(Statewide) Specialty license plates that support Idaho's science and technology industry are for sale through the Idaho Transportation Department.

A portion of the proceeds from each plate sold goes to a fund that is used to develop programs and market the state's technology sector.

A picture of the license plate, and information on how to purchase one, can be viewed at technology.idaho.gov/license.

Have an Idea/Submission for this Newsletter?

Contact Julie Howard at the Idaho Department of Commerce's Office of Science & Technology at (208) 334-2650, ext. 2147, or at Julie.howard@commerce.idaho.gov

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"We Create Jobs, Strengthen Communities and Market Idaho."

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